

clear to me that the Democratic leadership, Senator DASCHLE through the membership, will continue to fight for the million people who are not covered by this resolution, but we cannot turn our backs on the 2.8 million who need this check on Thursday.

I will not object to this unanimous consent request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (S. 23) was read the third time and passed.

EXTENSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. FRIST. I ask the period of morning business be extended for 3 hours under the earlier parameters.

Mr. DASCHLE. I ask unanimous consent the 3 hours be divided equally.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Democratic leader.

UNEMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, let me thank the distinguished Senator from Illinois for not objecting to this resolution. He and my colleagues feel very strongly, as is evidenced by the debate this afternoon. We will not give up, we will not relent, we will not allow those million Americans who have no coverage not getting the consideration they deserve in the Senate. We will continue to offer amendments.

I put my colleagues on notice: On this legislation and on any other occasion that we have the opportunity to avail ourselves of an amendment, we will do so, because this deserves a vote. It deserves debate. It deserves passage. It is shameful we are leaving out these million people today. There is absolutely no excuse, especially when the President of the United States today is in Chicago talking about more tax cuts for those at the very top. That is wrong.

It is an illustration of the extraordinary difference in philosophy about how we stimulate the economy. This is not only good for the economy, it is good for 1 million people left out as a result of the actions today.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nevada.

Mr. REID. On the Democratic side we have a number of Senators who have asked for a specific time. I ask unanimous consent on our side, and on an alternating basis if, in fact, there are Republicans who wish to speak, that Senator BOXER first be recognized for 5 minutes, Senator SCHUMER for 5 minutes, Senator STABENOW for 5 minutes, Senator DORGAN for 5 minutes, Senator REID of Rhode Island for 5 minutes, Senator MURRAY for 5 minutes. That is a total, I believe, of 35 minutes, leaving 55 minutes for other Senators on this side of the aisle who wish to speak. The normal procedure is to alternate back

and forth on the time evenly divided between now and 5 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from California.

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I thank my assistant Democratic leader for the time.

During the brief debate we had before we voted to extend these unemployment benefits, the Senator from Pennsylvania asked, What is wrong with you people? What has changed, that you really want to protect now these 1 million people, when several months ago you did not speak as loudly for their inclusion?

I state for the record what has happened in this period of time. As we go out and about our States, as I think we all did during this break, we find high anxiety among the people—high anxiety because of this economy. We are seeing more foreclosures than ever. Two million jobs have been lost in the private sector. On top of that we are seeing budget deficits that we have not seen in many years.

My friend who is now presiding, my esteemed colleague, understands this anxiety. We have teamed up to work on giving a jump-start to the high-tech sector with a bill on wireless fidelity, which I believe is going to really help this economy. He understands that.

We have a sense of urgency about that bill because we know we can turn things around. In my State we have a horrible situation in the northern areas because of what I would call a depression, really, in the high-tech sector. Some of it was to be expected; we went through this huge period of growth. We have some settling down there. But nonetheless, it is a problem. We have thousands of people in northern California who are suffering through no fault of their own. These people, who are intelligent, educated, and excellent workers, are out on the street. They are running out of benefits, and some of them have run out already. That is why we on this side of the aisle believe those million people should not be left out of the equation.

I have a State of 35 million people. In terms of its economy, it would be the sixth largest economy in the world. The fact is, the good people in that State need help. Why we on this side of the aisle were so upset and why we kept objecting or reserving the right to object is we wanted to make sure the people's voices were heard. That is what the Senate ought to be, a place where the voice of the people is heard.

We have a situation where our States are worse off. They cannot come in and help because they are financially strapped because of the recession. So people are turning to us. Today we took care of some people. I am very proud we did that, but we have left out in the cold a million people. I will not be satisfied, speaking as one Senator, until we have taken care of all those who are in need.

The Senator from Pennsylvania also made a comment that just some of the

States have problems. This is not true. These million people reside in all of the States. In my own State, the pockets of real trouble are in the north of the State right now; the south of the State is doing better. But individuals all over this country need help.

In summary, I say the Democrats are back. We are ready to go to work. We will stay. We will stay late into the night. But we are going to offer, all through this day and all through the coming days, a unanimous consent request saying we need to take care of those million people, those long-term unemployed people whose checks have already run out, who do not know where they are going to get the money to pay the rent, who don't know if they will get evicted, who don't know if they can take care of their children.

There is a new term of art that has come about. It is called "food insecurity." Food insecurity—that is a delicate way of saying people are hungry.

We are seeing food insecurity. We are seeing housing insecurity. We are seeing joblessness. Can we turn it around? Of course we could turn it around.

I have seen the President's plan. In my personal opinion, having looked at where the benefits go, it is a bonanza to the wealthiest in the country, and it is a bust for the middle class. It is a budget deficit disaster. But he has a plan out there. It is a huge plan, and we are going to work to make it better, to get the benefits to those who need them. But if you want to talk about stimulus, talk about the million people who have no money to put bread on the table.

In closing, let's help those million people. I intend to stay here all this week and next and into future weeks to make sure we do.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CHAFEE). The Senator from Wyoming.

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. President, I have been here throughout this debate. I have not been involved in this issue prior to this point, as many have. But it has been an interesting and rather surprising sequence of events here on this first day, this sort of ceremonial day, in which we get into this kind of head-to-head arrangement. It is surprising.

I do understand why this issue was brought to the floor. That is because there is a time element. We heard a letter from the Secretary of Labor indicating that in order to get a continuation of the unemployment benefits of those who are still eligible, we have to do it by Thursday. So I think that is a pretty compelling issue. In order to get that done, we obviously also have to do something that has been agreed to, apparently, by the House as well.

So it is surprising to me that we have this effort made within the Senate, and also with House leadership, to try to do something within this time that is imperative we do, yet we come to the floor and apparently the very people who helped make the agreement now